



Federal Lands Transportation Program Fact Sheet

Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Program

Access to and within the National Park System has been a defining experience for generations of visitors.

The National Park Service (NPS) coordinates the planning and implementation of transportation systems that improve the visitor experience and care for national parks by:

- Preserving natural and cultural resources.
- Enhancing visitor safety and security.
- Protecting plant and animal species.
- Reducing congestion.
- Decreasing pollution.

NPS is committed to being a leader in pursuing strategies that can help make park units more enjoyable, cleaner, quieter, and more sustainable for present and future generations.

For more information, visit nps.gov/transportation

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National park units are subject to natural disasters including floods, storms, and hurricanes. When such calamities occur, NPS works in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to secure emergency funding that helps repair damaged roads and infrastructure.

What is the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) Program?

The ERFO Program was established to assist Federal agencies with the repair or reconstruction of Federal roads, which are found to have suffered serious damage from a natural disaster over a wide area or from a catastrophic failure. ERFO funds are meant to restore the transportation system back to pre-disaster conditions.

How does the National Park Service apply for ERFO funding?

NPS units file an application for ERFO funds after a disaster through their Regional Federal Lands Highway Program Coordinators. The damaged road must be deemed eligible for ERFO funds. There is a minimum threshold of \$700,000 of road and bridge damage per disaster in order for ERFO funds to be available at all. Damage can be combined with other Federal land management agencies to meet the \$700,000 threshold. If the combined road and bridge damages for an individual natural disaster are less than \$700,000, the agencies are expected to fund the repair costs using their agency funds.

How has ERFO funding enabled NPS units to recover from disaster?

From 2008 to 2014, NPS received \$93.4 million in ERFO funding for 29 disasters. Hurricane Sandy in 2012 was especially destructive for east coast parks (see images below). With the assistance of the Federal Lands Highways Divisions, parks are able to assess damage quickly and receive ERFO funding for emergency repairs promptly.

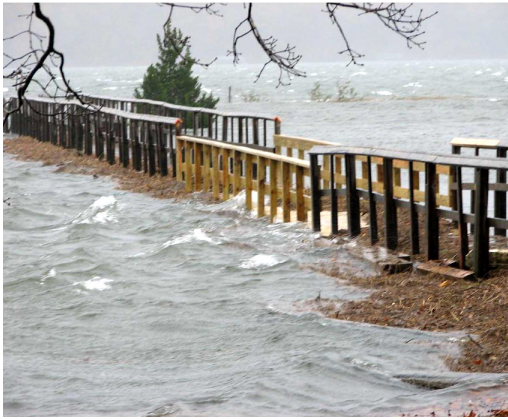


Statue of Liberty work dock with severe damage caused by Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012. (NPS photo)



Statue of Liberty work dock was reopened to the public on July 4, 2013, following reconstruction, which used ERFO funding. (EIC Associates photo)

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Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in New York

On October 29, 2012 Hurricane Sandy wreaked major havoc on the Northeast Coast destroying the Eel Creek wooden boardwalk structure at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, NY. Sagamore Hill was the home of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, from 1885 until his death in 1919. During Roosevelt's time in office, his "Summer White House" was the focus of international attention. The boardwalk is 360' long and provides access to the beach at Cold Spring Harbor and the only public access to an unspoiled salt marsh abutting the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge. In January 2013 the NPS along with FHWA Eastern Federal Lands began efforts to reconstruct a new elevated boardwalk in same location as that which existed prior to

storm. Construction was complete in December 2013 for a net construction cost of \$198,500. The deck elevation was raised one foot in the central portion. The new boardwalk was designed to be accessible and the deck was widened to 8 feet to allow access for emergency vehicles.



Images:

(Upper left) The boardwalk at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site in New York during Hurricane Sandy, October 29, 2012.

(Left) The damaged Sagamore Hill boardwalk following Hurricane Sandy.

(Right) The reconstructed Sagamore Hill boardwalk in 2013.

NPS Photos

Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey

Gateway National Recreation Area is made up of three park units; Jamaica Bay, Sandy Hook and Staten Island, which all have a rich history of the nation, NYC and the NY harbor. Historic forts, former airports, recreation areas and America's oldest operating lighthouse tell fascinating stories of defense, aviation firsts, and navigational safety. Hurricane Sandy caused much destruction in Gateway. Just one of many ERFO projects, ERFO funding of \$465,376 enabled removal of damaged and hazardous sections of Shore Road at Fort Tilden Beach, Jamaica Bay which allowed NPS and the public to safely access the beach. The work included removal of undermined, heaved, and broken concrete pavement road sections (3200 feet in length by 22 feet wide by 10"+ thick). This site was closed to the public until the clean-up was completed on March 14, 2014. Through NPS Sandy funding, NPS is currently completing an environmental assessment for Fort Tilden Beach to understand the potential impacts from future storm events. NPS will use information gleaned from this NEPA process to guide the siting and design of roads and trails, as well as to consider coastal protection measures.

Images:

(Left) Shore Road damage at the Gateway National Recreation Area following Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

(Right) Cleanup and reconstruction at Gateway National Recreation Area.

NPS Photos

